

Appl. No. 10/509,300
Response dated January 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of December 23, 2005

REMARKS

After entry of the present Amendment, claims 6-18, 21, 22 and 24-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 19, 20 and 23 are canceled without prejudice to the filing of one or more continuing applications. Claims 26-29, which depend from claim 22, are newly added. Applicants submit that the new claims are supported by the application as filed.

Response to Unity of Invention Objection

The Office Action sets forth a unity of invention objection that divides the claims into three groups on the basis that the groups allegedly are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. As presented in the Office Action, the Groups are as follows.

Group I, claims 1-5, 20, and 23, drawn to a method for inducing neutrophil apoptosis.

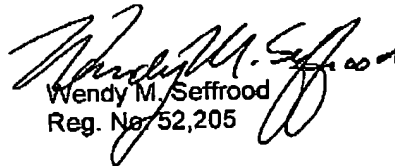
Group II, claims 6-18, 21-22 and 24-25, drawn to a method for inhibiting the release of IL-8.

Group III, claim 19, drawn to a method for increasing bactericidal activity of neutrophils.

Applicants elect Group II, claims 6-18, 21-22 and 24-25, without traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 26-29 are within the elected group and respectfully request consideration on the merits of these claims.

No fee is believed due in connection with this submission. However, if a fee is owed, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0842.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy M. Seffrood
Reg. No. 52,205

Docket No.: 013709-9001-US01

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
One South Pinckney Street
P. O. Box 1806
Madison, WI 53701-1806
(608) 257-3501